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EXONYMS: PROVISIONAL LIST OF EXONYMS

Guidelines for the preparation of lists of exonyms

Paper submitted by the Dutch- and German-speaking Division**

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** Prepared by the Dutch- and German-speaking Division.

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Having discussed various aspects of exonyms, the Dutch and German-speaking Division (DGSD) of the UNGEGN would like to refer to the Report of the U.N.Conference on Geographical Names held 1972 in London, vol.II, pp.195-196, where the complexity of this matter was described exhaustively. At that time the DGSD submitted those considerations as a common paper on this subject, which was thereafter adopted by the conference.

Definition of the Term "exonym"

According to the draft of the revised Glossary for Cartographic Toponymy as of May 1991, the exonym is defined as follows:

Name used in a specific language for a topographic feature situated outside the area where that language has official status, and differing from the standardized name not only by diacritic marks or through conversion.

Cartographic Publications for International Use

A clear distinction must be made between cartographic publications for international use and those for national use. International atlases and maps should strictly use endonyms only. In tourist maps and in international cartography in general there is scarcely any more use for exonyms. There may be cases in these maps, however, where one and the same feature has more than one endonym, as e.g. Ortler and Ortles, Raab and Rába, Sélestat and Schlettstadt, Liège and Luik, one or more of them being official.

Cartographic Products for National Use

In cartographic products for national use exonyms cannot and should not be banned. The widest range of exonyms is needed in school atlases and school maps. Many exonyms are a stable

element of everyday language. Their use may, however, change within five or ten years. It is every editors own responsability to adopt such changes if they occur.

Principles of Spatial, Historical or Mental Neighbourhood

Whether an exonym is still in current use, cannot be determined by inquiries, because its use depends largely on the spatial distance between the named feature and the individual user. The most prominent mountains and regions near the language borders as well as larger inhabited places are called by their exonyms. People will more frequently use exonyms for features in their direct neighbourhood than for those in remote areas. Another criterion is the historical distance: The older population tends to use them still, whereas the younger might no longer apply them. This results in some kind of mental distance also. Historical names again are no exonyms in their strict sense. But the transition between the present and the history is quite smooth too.

Exonyms Mainly for Large Territories

Exonyms for large territories are often quite common, whereas they are seldom used for small places. It should be noted however that names for oceans and submarine features as well are not exonyms in their strict sense, because for these features endonyms do not exist at all.

Exonyms for Names with Generic Terms

In (cartographic) practice the use of exonyms can usually not be avoided for names that are combined with generic or attributive terms. The generic term or attribute cannot be given in another language than the proper name, as might be explained by the following examples:

Endonym:	instead of the hybrid form:	Exonym to be prefered:
Islas Canarias (Spanish)	Canarias-Inseln (German)	Kanarische Inseln (German)
	Îles Canarias (French)	Îles Canaries (French)
	Canarias Islands ?? (English)	Canary Islands (English)
Cordillera Cantábrica	Kantabrische Cordillera (German)	Kantabrisches Gebirge (Germ.)
	Cordillera Cantabrique (French)	Monts Cantabriques (French)
	Cantabrian Cordillera (English)	Cantabrian Mountains (English)
Friesische Inseln (German)	Îles de Friesland ????? (French)	Îles de la Frise (French)
	Islands of Friesland ?? (English)	Frisian Islands (English)
Isthmos Korinthou (Greek)	Isthme de Kórinthos (French)	Isthme de Corinthe (French)
	Isthmus of Kórinthos (English)	Isthmus of Corinth (English)
Kepulauan Sunda Ketjil	Islands of Sunda Ketjil ??(Engl.)	Lesser Sunda Islands (English)
	Petites Îles de Sunda Ketjil ?(Fr.)	Petites Îles de la Sonde (French)

In school atlases for lower grade pupils there may be more exonyms than in those for upper grades. It has become common practice within countries of the Dutch and German-speaking Division to use the English or French endonym for mountains etc., as e.g. Rocky Mountains, Great Dividing Range, Mount Hood, Mont Blanc, Monts du Lyonais, Côte d'Or, Golfe du Lion, rather than to translate the various components of these names. The opposite may be true for areas with an official language which is not as widely known as English and French.

Linguistic Reasons for the Persistence of Exonyms

These are a few quotations of the Report of the 2nd Conference (p.195/196) mentioned above: "Exonyms being part of the vocabulary of a given language, their general elimination would result in an impoverishment of that vocabulary and would be inconsistent with sound principles of language policy. Many exonyms are deeply rooted in the lexical system of the language. This holds especially true for the names of major geographical entities. The replacement of exonyms by local official names often causes difficulties of spelling and pronounciation for the average language-user."

Classification of Exonyms in View of their Reduction

Partly based on earlier considerations (e.g. Bulletin du Comité Français de Cartographie, No. 77, 1978, p. 96-100) Prof.Dr.J.Breu and Dr.O.Back prepared a classification of exonyms. This proposal was rewritten after the discussion held in the StAGN. The classifications were made according to three criteria, namely by geographical features, by relationship to the exonym-using language community and by features of linguistic structures.

1. Classification of Exonyms by Categories of Geographical Features		(Examples in brackets)
1.1	Continents	(Greenland)
1.2	Oceans and seas[1)]	(Baltic Sea)
1.3	Rivers and lakes, islands, canals[2)]	(Danube)
1.4	Mountains or ranges[3)]	(Alps)
1.5	Sovereign countries (States), provinces, states in federations and dependent territories	(Hungary, Carinthia)
1.6	Historical regions and other historical entities[4)]	(Burgundy)
1.7	Capitals, major cities, inhabited places, of areas as under 1.5 and 1.6	(Copenhagen)
1.8	Historical sites, historical place names	(Troy)
1.9	Exonyms left to be created	(Great Dividing Range)

Footnotes concerning

1) 1.2 Names for oceans and continents are no exonyms in its strict sense, because there exists no endonym for these entities.

2) 1.3 Exonyms may be used for large and well-known islands.
Special care has to be given to avoid mere translation of generic terms that are in fact proper names (King Island, not to be translated as Isola del Rè; King was a captain!) The endonym should be used for smaller islands, unless there is certain evidence that an exonym exists.

3) 1.4 Mountain ranges cause some problems, as e.g. Great Dividing Range. Gran Catena Divisoria is the correct Italian translation, but what is applicable in German, Africaans or Dutch?

4) 1.6 Historical names that are still alive today, i.e. in daily use not only by historians.

2. Classification by Relationship of Geographical Features to the Exonym-using Language Community

Exonyms to be retained for major geographical features.....

2.1	.....in close neigbourhood of the area of the exonym-using language community	(Dutch exonyms for geographical features in Southern Belgium and Northern France)
2.2	.....having particular historical relationship with the exonym-using language community	(Hungarian exonyms for geographical features in Slovakia)
2.3	.....in areas where the exonym-using language is spoken but has no official status	(German exonyms for geographical features in the French departments of Haut-Rhin and Bas-Rhin, e.g. German "Mülhausen" for official French "Mulhouse")
2.4	.....of wide cultural traditional meaning	(River Jordan)

3. Classification by Features of Linguistic Structure

Exonyms to be retained, ...

3.1	....if including a generic element which is the translationof a corresponding element of the endonym	("Black Forest")
3.2	....if rendering by phonological / morphological adaptation an endonym of a closely related language	(Polish exonym for Belorussian and Ukrainian endonyms)
3.3	if resulting from the fact that, e.g., the sound-value of a logographically spelled Chinese endonym is substituted in Japanese by a different sound-value of the Japanese reading of the same logographic spelling, and vice versa in the direction Japanese - Chinese	

4. Features for which exonyms ought to be introduced

A few important physical-geographical features

There is a proposal to specify the exonyms according to current use, e.g. as follows:

a) absolutely uncontested in current use
b) still in current use
c) decreasingly used in recent times
d) no longer used
e) endonyms that have become increasingly used in recent times (e.g."Zagreb") instead of the exonyms (e.g."Agram")

Furthermore it was proposed to publish a list of all those name variants that must not be used anymore, as e.g.

in German "Neuyork", "Chikago", "San Franzisko", "Mexiko-City", "Tscherrapundi" (which was never a German exonym),
in Dutch "Vierwoudstedenmeer", "Dusseldorp" etc.

Compilation of Lists of Exonyms within the DGSD

In the discussions at the Conference in Montreal, the question was raised, for whom such a list might be useful. The main interest is probably that of a map author for the exonyms within his own language area. All those that have to compile maps in a foreign language – a case that is somehow rather exceptional – will be looking for the exonyms to be used in that specific language. Finally map users that consult maps published in languages other than their own might be interested in identifying exonyms and looking-up the corresponding endonym.

In Austria the "Abteilung für Ortsnamenkunde" of the Cartographic Commission in the Geographic Society of Austria has formed a working group that prepares proposals for the rendering of geographic names in teaching aids. 29 meetings have been held already and work nears completion. However, wider consultation among those involved in geographic names in the educational field will take place before publishing such a list in the form of a recommendation.

The Netherlands have published a list of Dutch country names and capitals in 1990, that contain of course exonyms as well.

The Republic of South Africa has compiled a list of Afrikaans exonyms.

In Switzerland several Federal institutions co-operated in preparing lists in all four national languages, German, French, Italian and Rheto-roman, for exonyms within the country only. But here again the above considerations will need some re-editing. As to the current use of these names, no official body could take the responsability to make a final decision about it. This seems to be the case also in most of the other countries.

The StAGN (Ständiger Ausschuss für geographische Namen) has published a second edition of the synoptic list of country names and capitals ("Schreibweisen der Staatennamen und ihrer Ableitungen sowie die Hauptstädte in den Bekanntmachungen des Deutschen Übersetzungsdienstes bei den Vereinten Nationen und der deutschsprachigen Staaten.- Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie, Frankfurt am Main, 1991"). We might remember also in this context, that the "Duden – Wörterbuch geographischer Namen – Europa (ohne Sowjetunion)", published in 1966 by the Bibliographisches Institut Mannheim and the gazetteer of the Americas ("Wörterbuch geographischer Namen, America. -Institut für Angewandte Geodäsie, Frankfurt am Main, 1990") are valuable sources for this type of information searched.

The Ministry of the Interior of the German Democratic Republic has published a list of Exonyms (Verzeichnis der Exonyme und anderer geographischer Namen in deutscher Sprache für kartographische Erzeugnisse der DDR, 1.Auflage., Ministerium des Innern, Berlin 1986). In view of the aspects mentioned above, this list had to be amended. Some items could not be considered as exonyms in the strict sense of the term, other categories were still missing.

The StAGN has started discussion and editorial work on a "List of Selected German Designations for geographical Names outside Germany, Austria and the German-speaking part of Switzerland and their Equivalent Official Names".

Final Remarks

The criteria mentioned above show that the problem of listing and reducing exonyms has to be tackled in a fairly differentiated manner. There is no reason and no possibility to ask for their rigorous elimination. This has been recognized also by the translators of the U.N., who use quite a comprehensive list with those names which are to be translated by their exonyms.

The DGSD recommends that the national names authority of each country decides by itself whether such a list of exonyms with their recommended use is useful for the reduction of their number.